

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-15 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 VOE-00 SCA-01 FBO-01 L-03 INSE-00 H-03

DRC-01 /060 W

----- 122015

R 012100Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3034

UNCLAS KINGSTON 3380

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ABLD CVIS JNID

SUBJECT: NEW BUILDING FOR CONSULAR SECTION

1. LEASE ON 1B EUREKA ROAD BUILDING WAS SIGNED
SEPTEMBER 26, 1973. ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, I HELD A
PRESS CONVERENCE MAKING FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF OUR INTENTION
TO MOVE THE VISA OPERATION. I COMMENCED WITH THE FOLLOWING
STATE: QUOTE

PRESS STATEMENT

SOON AFTER MY ARRIVAL IN JAMAICA I GAVE ASSURANCES THAT
I WOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO IMPROVE THE PHYSICAL
FACILITIES IN WHICH WE WERE FORCED TO PROCESS VISA APPLICANTS
AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY ON DUKE STREET. I AM HAPPY TO BE
ABLE TO ANNOUNCE THAT THIS WEEK WE SIGNED A LEASE ON A NEW
BUILDING PRESENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT 1B EUREKA ROAD,
AT THE EDGE OF THE NEW KINGSTON AREA. THIS NEW BUILDING,
WHICH HAS 8,700 SQUARE FEET OF FLOOR SPACE, WILL BE USED TO
HOUSE OUR ENTIRE VISA OPERATION, BOTH IMMIGRANT AND VISITORS
VISAS. THE EMBASSY AND THAT PORTION OF OUR CONSULAR
OPERATION PERTAINING TO AMERICAN CITIZENS WILL REMAIN IN THE
DUKE STREET BUILDING. THE NEW BUILDING SHOULD PROVIDE
ADEQUATE WAITING ROOMS AND SANITARY FACILITIES FOR OUR
CURRENT AND PROJECTED VISA DEMAND. IT SHOULD ALSO BE
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POSSIBLE TO ENGINEER THE INTERIOR OF THE BUILDING TO INSURE

MAXIMUM EFFICIENCY IN VISA PROCESSING. WE HOPE TO MOVE THE VISA OPERATION TO ITS NEW QUARTERS BY THE END OF THE YEAR. WE ARE TAKING THIS STEP, AT VERY CONSIDERABLE COST TO THE AMERICAN TAXPAYERS, OUT OF SIMPLE HUMANITARIAN CONCERN AND FOR THE SAKE OF A PRODUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

IT SHOULD BE CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD THAT THE MOVE TO NEW QUARTERS WILL NOT BE ACCOMPANIED BY ANY INCREASED AVAILABILITY OF VISAS. OUR CONGRESS GIVES US VERY LITTLE LATITUDE IN OUR ADMINISTRATION OF THE VISA LAWS. HOWEVER, I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THE LAWS WILL BE ADMINISTERED IN A FAIR, IMPARTIAL, AND COURTEOUS MANNER.

THE TRAVELLING PUBLIC CAN HELP US PREVENT A RECURRENCE OF THE KIND OF SITUATION THAT DEVELOPED AT OUR DUKE STREET ADDRESS BY FOLLOWING A FEW SIMPLE PRACTICES:

1. AVOID THE RUSH MONTHS-JUNE THROUGH SEPTEMBER ANTICIPATE YOUR TRAVEL PLANS AS FAR IN ADVANCE AS POSSIBLE. THERE ARE ONLY ONE-FOURTH AS MANY APPLICANTS FOR NONIMMIGRANT VISAS IN JANUARY AS IN JULY. THE PEAK DEMAND COMES BETWEEN MAY AND SEPTEMBER, BUT THERE IS NOTHING TO PREVENT YOUR GETTING YOUR VISA MONTHS EARLIER. IT WILL STILL BE VALID WHEN YOU TRAVEL IN THE SUMMER.

2. AVOID THE QUEUE WHEN POSSIBLE

TRANSFERS OF VISAS FROM ONE PASSPORT TO ANOTHER OR RENEWAL OF A VISA IN THE SAME PASSPORT DO NOT NORMALLY REQUIRE YOUR PRESENCE AT THE EMBASSY. SUCH PASSPORTS (THE OLD AND THE NEW FOR TRANSFERS) MAY BE MAILED, WITH SUPPORTING EVIDENCE AND SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPES, OR DROPPED OFF AT THE NON-IMMIGRATION VISA PASSAGEWAY ANY WORKING DAY BETWEEN 1:30 AND 3:30 PM

3. BRING NECESSARY SUPPORTING INFORMATION

WHEN YOU APPLY FOR THE FIRST TIME FOR A VISITOR'S VISA, BRING EVIDENCE TO ASSURE YOUR INTENTION TO RETURN TO UNCLASSIFIED

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JAMAICA, SUCH AS CLOSE FAMILY TIES, EMPLOYMENT, OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY OR OTHER EVIDENCE OF COMMITMENT TO THE COMMUNITY.

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2. AFTER THE OPENING STATEMENT, THE CONSUL GENERAL, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, AND I TOOK QUESTIONS WHICH WENT

OVER THE USUAL GROUND INCLUDING THE NATURE OF THE
IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT, THE POLICY AND
PRACTICES OF THE EMBASSY WITH RESPECT TO VISA ISSUANCE, AND
VISA STATISTICS.

NO QUESTIONS ON OTHER MATTERS (E.G.SUGAR) WERE
ASKED

3. FRIDAY EVENINGS PRIME TIME NEWS BROADCAST GAVE THE
ANNOUNCEMENT AMPLE COVERAGE QUOTING AT LENGTH FROM ABOVE
STATEMENT AND INCLUDING FILM FOOTAGE OF NEW BUILDING

4. ALL MAJOR PAPERS HEADLINED ANNOUNCEMENT AS THEIR
LEAD OR NUMBER TWO STORY ON SATURDAY MORNING
INCLUDING FULL FACTUAL COVERAGE. GLEANER INCLUDED
ALMOST ENTIRE STATEMENT AND THE VERBATIM RESPONSES
TO THE MOST SIGNIFICANT QUESTIONS

5. NO EDITORIALS OR OTHER COMMENTARY AS YET. HEWITT

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